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1           1. (currently amended) A method of providing continuing medical education  
2 credit to a first physician for a consultation between the first physician and a second  
3 physician, the first and second physicians being coupled via a telecommunications system  
4 to an intermediary having a processor and a storage device to which the processor has  
5 access, the method comprising the steps of:

6           receiving a request for a consultation from the first physician via the  
7 telecommunications system at the processor of the intermediary, the processor of the  
8 intermediary being programmed to manage and record the consultation between the first  
9 physician and the second physician, the processor of the intermediary storing the request  
10 in the storage device;

11           receiving by the processor of the intermediary a selection of the second physician  
12 made by a staff physician in the intermediary ~~of the second physician~~, the second  
13 physician having an expertise in a specialty in which the consultation is requested by the  
14 first physician;

15           sending by the processor of the intermediary the stored request to the selected  
16 second physician via the telecommunications system;

17           receiving by the processor of the intermediary a comment made with regard to the  
18 consultation via the telecommunications system from the selected second physician and  
19 the processor of the intermediary storing the comment;

20           providing by the processor of the intermediary the stored comment from the  
21 selected second physician to the first physician via the telecommunications system;

22           on conclusion of the consultation, an accreditation module of the  
23 processor of the intermediary recording information concerning the consultation in a  
24 continuing medical education database accessible to the processor, the information being  
25 associated with the first physician; and

26           creating, by the accreditation module, an accreditation report for the first  
27 physician from the information in the continuing medical education database, the  
28 accreditation report comprising a certification of the continuing medical education credit  
29 earned by the first physician from participation in the consultation.

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1           2. (currently amended) The method of providing continuing medical education  
2 credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:  
3           retrieving by the processor of the intermediary instructional material relevant to  
4 the comment and the consultation selected by the staff physician from an information  
5 data base to which the processor has access; and  
6           providing the instructional material to the first physician via the  
7 telecommunications system.

1           3. (previously amended) The method of providing continuing medical education  
2 credit set forth in claim 2 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:  
3           providing by the accreditation module an examination based on at least the  
4 instructional material to the first physician via the telecommunications system;  
5           receiving at the accreditation module answers for the examination from the first  
6 physician via the telecommunications system; and  
7           grading by the accreditation module the received answers, the first physician  
8 being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes the  
9 examination.

1           4. (previously amended) The method of providing continuing medical education  
2 credit set forth in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:  
3           providing by the accreditation module via the telecommunications system an  
4 examination based on at least the comment to the first physician;  
5           receiving at the accreditation module answers for the examination from the first  
6 physician; and  
7           grading by the accreditation module the received answers, the first physician  
8 being entitled to the medical education credit if the first physician passes the  
9 examination.